

Words to Explain Graphs and Charts in Part 1 of IELTS Writing

Firstly, you have to recognise the kind of information is being provided in task 1 for IELTS Academic writing. It could be a graph, a chart, a diagram, a map, a table or a combination of any of them.

The words provided below will help you while writing a report for the graph and the chart.

The words required to start a graph are:

The graph indicates

The graph shows

The graph depicts

The graph illustrates

From the graph it is clear

It can be seen from the graph

As can be seen from the graph,

As is shown / illustrated by the graph

Depending on the trend, the values in the graph could have the following possibilities.

1. The values stay steady.
2. The values increase
3. The values decrease and
4. The values fluctuate

1. The values stay steady

In this situation use the following words,

unchanged, steady, stable, constant, plateau, fixed/static

For example:

From May to October the percentage of people using supplements remained fairly static at approximately 20%.

The percentage of people consuming supplements was relatively stable during that period.

2. The values increase

Use the following verbs, adjectives and adverbs to show increase in something.

rise (rose, risen), grow (grew, grown), climb (ed, ed), shoot up (shot up, shot up), increase (increased), upward trend

In order to provide more information about the increase please use the following adjectives or adverbs

Adjectives **dramatic, sharp, significant, rapid**

Adverbs **dramatically, sharply, significantly, rapidly**

Example: There was a significant increase in the percentage of people taking supplements between October and December.

3. The values decrease

If the values decrease, please use the following words.

**fall (fell, fallen), decrease (ed, ed), drop (dropped, dropped), plunge (ed, ed), decline (ed, ed)
slow (slowly), downward trend**

Same as earlier, use the following adjectives or adverbs to qualify the drop.

Adjectives **downward, dramatic, sharp, significant, rapid, slight**

Adverbs **dramatically, sharply, significantly, rapidly, slightly**

Example: There was a slight decrease in the use of supplements in October.

4. The values fluctuate

There are times when values keep increasing and decreasing, in short changing frequently, this is called fluctuation.

There aren't many words to describe it and they are,

fluctuate, keep changing, went up and down,

The following words can qualify them,

Adjectives **frequent, wide, wild**

Adverbs **frequently, widely, wildly**

The sales went up and down wildly over that period.

There are two more points you should remember.

If the value reaches the top, please use

Peak (peaked), reached the highest point, reached a peak, reaches the top

If the value reaches the bottom, please use

reaches the bottom, touches the rock bottom, the lowest point, least,